

# UNTOLD

STORY LEADS FROM MONTANA



SPRING 2001 • [visitmt.com](http://visitmt.com)

## Have We Got Class

All over the country lifelong learners are leaving the confines of a traditional museum setting in search of alternative ways to understand and experience unfamiliar cultures and historic sites.

The Western Heritage Center in Billings offers this curious lot the opportunity to discover Montana's unique people and places through its "Museum Without Walls Program."

"These adventures give people an insider experience," says Kathy Mosdal O'Brien, Curator of Education for the Western Heritage Center. "Participants can go to sites not usually open to the public and they can ask our knowledgeable guides all of the questions they

"Participants can go to sites not usually open to the public."

-Kathy Mosdal O'Brien



*Leo Spang teaches Trisha Anderson about local vegetation on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation.*

want." The one-day field trips, held on Saturdays throughout the summer, are designed to be a hands-on learning environment. This summer participants will travel by horseback on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation to learn about the traditional uses of plants for physical and spiritual heal-

ing, discover how ancient rocks tell the stories of the past, visit with historic reenactors at a Lewis and Clark site on the Yellowstone River to pick up some mountain man skills, journey to the tops of the Beartooth Mountains to study some of the oldest rocks in the state, and spend the day with a Crow oral and cultural historian who will share his culture with the group.

Mosdal O'Brien explains that while these trips are generally attended by adults, children ten years and up are welcome. She also adds that most of the trips are handicapped

accessible and necessary adjustments for various special needs can be handled. Costs for each of the trips vary.

For more details on the Museum Without Walls Program contact Kathy Mosdal O'Brien at (406)256-6809, extension 28 or see the website at [www.ywhc.org](http://www.ywhc.org)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Don't Fence Me In  
Something Old Is New Again

A Tall Tale  
A Century of Conservation: Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks Turns 100

Who Needs a Compass When  
You Have the Web

# Don't Fence Me In

**Stressed out? Looking for some new scenery? Ready to horse around? If you answered yes to at least one of these questions, Montana has a trip for you.**

**A** dude ranch vacation helps people unwind in this pressure-cooker age," says Sandra Cahill, owner of the 63 Ranch outside of Livingston, Montana. Sandra understands how to relieve pressure; she and her family have been hosting "dudes" for some 70 years. "A lot of people tell me that their experience at our ranch exceeds their expectations; they can't believe our state's beauty and the thrill of working with cattle."

Dude ranching got its start in the late 1800s to provide safe, comfortable lodging for the many visitors from the cities of the East and from Europe who hoped to experience the romance and wonder of the West. In fact, the Dude Rancher's Association is celebrating its 75th year of promoting this truly unique experience to families, couples and singles from all walks of life.



*Horses are year-round residents at Montana dude ranches.*

Cahill explains that this type of vacation is contagious. "Kids who came here years ago are now bringing their children and grandchildren for a visit. They say that this is the only place on earth they know that hasn't changed; that is why they keep coming back."

So if you're ready to change out of your business suit and slip into some jeans and cowboy boots, one of Montana's 150 dude/guest ranches and working guest ranches may fit your style. Log onto Travel Montana's website at [www.visitmt.com](http://www.visitmt.com) for a complete ranch listing.

## Something Old Is New Again



**If your picture of Montana at the turn of the century is one of cowboys sauntering through dusty frontier towns, then a visit to Montana's newly restored state capitol will provide a glimpse of the grandeur that was also part of this era.**

**T**he copper-domed capitol was constructed out of sandstone and completed in 1902, with a major addition of granite east/west wings a decade later. The building remained much the same until the 1960s, when it became apparent that some structural work was needed. To make these improvements, the capitol was almost completely gutted, then stabilized and modernized with such changes as fluorescent lights, vinyl wall coverings and flat ceilings. In the process, decorative elements were obscured, removed or destroyed. State architect Tom O'Connell said, "That's what you did then, you kind of covered up the old."

The early 1980s saw a push to restore the capitol to its original splendor, but it wasn't until the 1991 Legislature passed a bill to



create a Capitol Restoration Commission that the project started to take roots. The goal was to re-create the styles, colors and patterns of the original building, according to O'Connell. This required extensive research of historical photos, building plans and remnants of glass and wood taken from the capitol. Most of the work has occurred in the last two years at a price tag of over \$26 million. The results are nothing short of outstanding, with hand-painted stencils, restoration of ornate plasterwork, refurbished scagliola columns, and a new barrel vault ceiling. An official gala re-opening is scheduled for July 4, 2002, marking the 100th anniversary of the capitol's original opening.

Guided tours of the capitol are available. Winter hours are Monday through Friday, 9 A.M.-5 P.M. Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5 P.M. Summer hours (Memorial Day to Labor Day) are 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. seven days a week. Call the Montana Historical Society at (406) 444-2694 for more details.



## A Tall Tale

The rings of a tree tell a story. By counting and observing these rings you can determine its age, its health and the natural disasters it has survived. In northwest Montana, at the historic Savenac Nursery, visitors can learn the story of how millions of trees changed the future of our national forests.

Established in 1907, Savenac was once one of the largest U.S. Forest Service tree nurseries in the United States, producing 12 million seedlings annually to reforest national forests throughout the country. Although the nursery is no longer used to produce seedlings, the site remains intact and retains its original flavor. It was designated a National Historic Site in July 2000. "Today, visitors can wander along interpretive trails through forests that were once seed beds, explore an arboretum featuring gifted trees such as the Japanese larch or just have a lazy picnic under Montana's blue sky," says the Forest Service's Carol Johnson.



*Savenac Nursery in 1936.*

One attraction on the trail is a national memorial to firefighters who died in the historic 1910 forest fire. The fire also consumed the fledgling nursery. Walk under the 78 spruce trees planted as a living memorial to these brave souls. Other points of interest at the site include historical photos, displays with period artifacts such as planting equipment and exhibits that tell the story of the Civilian Conservation Corp at the nursery in the 1930s.

The Savenac Nursery is located off Interstate 90 in Haugan. The visitor center is open daily from 9 A.M. to 6 P.M. July 1 through Labor Day, while the grounds are open year-round. For more information call (406) 822-4233.

## A Century of Conservation *Fish, Wildlife & Parks Turns 100*

One hundred years ago, Montana Governor John E. Rickards had the foresight to appoint a State Game & Fish Warden to enforce fish and wildlife laws. The Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) was born, and today the state and country benefit from the past century of conservation led by this caretaker of our natural heritage.

While FWP works vigorously to protect Montana's fish and wildlife habit, it also supports 42 state parks scattered throughout Montana. Often overlooked in favor of the big-name national parks, Yellowstone and Glacier, the state parks provide vital protection for diverse, and usually uncrowded, natural and historical features. In fact, some of these parks are so remote that you won't see another soul.

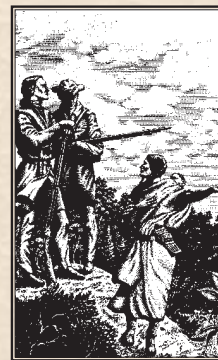
The parks span the spectrum of natural environments, from the fantastically weird

desert sandstone formations of Medicine Rocks and the shale badlands of Makoshika in the east, to the thick and moist hemlock forests surrounding Placid and Salmon lakes in the west. In 1936, the first Montana state park, Lewis and Clark Caverns, was acquired from the federal government and dedicated as a state park in order to protect the most highly decorative limestone caverns in the Northwest. Ghost towns, buffalo jumps and pictographs are just a few of the pieces of Montana's frontier past that have been preserved for future generations.

A century ago in this beautifully wild state, the leaders of Montana decided to preserve these gems as an investment for the future. Today we are all beneficiaries of their vision. For more information on Montana's Fish, Wildlife and Parks log onto [www.fwp.state.mt.us](http://www.fwp.state.mt.us).

## Who Needs a Compass When You Have the Web?

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led the first U.S. expedition across the continent in 1803-1806. President Thomas Jefferson sent them to find the headwaters of the Missouri River and an inland waterway to the Pacific Ocean. The scope and adventure of their journey is unmatched in American history and ranks among major explorations of the world.



Approximately one-fourth of that exploration was within what is now Montana. Today, highways parallel most of their route, making a scenic loop tour

that winds through every region of the state.

To get you started on your own remarkable journey, Travel Montana is updating its Lewis and Clark website [www.lewisandclark.state.mt.us](http://www.lewisandclark.state.mt.us). New features to the site include streaming video from the Ken Burns film "*Lewis & Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery*," a complete travel planner that highlights lodging and other historical attractions along the trail, and postcards from various Lewis and Clark historic sites. Information on 34 key "discovery points" from the journey, a complete list of events focused around the bicentennial commemoration and hot links to other relevant Lewis and Clark sites are also provided.

If only Lewis and Clark had the website when they began their journey, they may have thrown out their compass. Why not blaze your own trail to Montana. You provide the journal; we'll supply the memories.

## MARCH

- 2-4 Winter Carnival—Red Lodge 446-1718 or 446-1720
- 2-4 Billings Home Improvement Show—Billings 259-3114 or 860-3915
- 3 Ben Ali Haggin's Mile High Nordic Ski Race—Anaconda 782-0900 or 782-0316
- 3 33rd Annual Art Auction—Billings 256-6804
- 3 Banked Slalom—Missoula 549-9777
- 5-II USSA Freestyle Junior Olympics—Whitefish 892-2900
- 9-II Custom Car Show—Great Falls 453-8808
- 10 Milk River Wagon Train Feed and Dance—Malta 654-1100 or 654-1796
- 10 Equine Expo—Helena 442-8551
- 10 Snowmobile Poker Run—Lincoln 362-4335 or 362-4078
- 10 Annual St. Patricks Race—Anaconda 563-7618
- 10 Rendezvous Cross Country Ski Race—West Yellowstone 646-7701
- 10-II National Finals Ski-Joring—Red Lodge 446-3232
- II Duggan Dolan Blarney Stone Fun Run—Butte 782-0742 or 782-1859
- II-13 Women's and Men's Ski Workshops—Whitefish 862-2909
- 14-18 Western Heritage Artist Association Art Show—Great Falls 453-2990
- 15-18 World Snowmobile Expo—West Yellowstone 646-7701
- 16-17 St. Patrick's Day Events—Butte 782-0742 or 782-1859
- 16-18 Upper Yellowstone Expo—Trade Show—Livingston 222-0850
- 16-18 Irish Music Fest—Butte 782-0742 or 782-1859
- 17 St. Patrick's Day Parade—Anaconda 563-2400
- 17 St. Patricks Day Parade—Great Falls 453-6491
- 17-18 10th Annual Snow Rodeo and Spring Ski Race—Essex 888-5700
- 17-18 5th Annual Marshall Mountain Snowmobile Hillclimb Championship—Missoula 258-6000
- 18 24th Annual Belt Creek Headwaters Relay—Neihart 236-5522
- 18 North Dakota Downhill—Missoula 549-9777
- 18 Spring Fling and Trade Show—Lewistown 538-3441 or 538-3442
- 21-24 C.M. Russell Auction of Original Western Art & Exhibitors Show—Great Falls 761-6453
- 21-28 2001 Chevy Truck Alpine Championships—Whitefish 892-2900
- 22-25 Jay Contway and Friends Art Show—Great Falls 452-7647
- 22-25 Great Falls Native American Art Show—Great Falls 453-9980
- 23 Waitress Cup—Whitefish 862-2900
- 23-25 Montana Outdoor Recreation Exposition—Billings 657-1246 or 657-1440
- 24 Pinhead Classic—Bozeman 586-1518
- 24-25 Telemark Classic—Missoula 549-9777

- 25 Freestyle Bump-off—Neihart 236-5522
- 31-4/1 Montana Snowboard Championships—Neihart 236-5522
- 31-4/1 Antique and Collectable Extravaganza—Miles City 308-436-8355 or 308-632-2674

## APRIL

- 1-20 Cycle Only Days—West Yellowstone 646-7701
- 6-7 MSU Indian Club Pow-Wow—Bozeman 994-3751 or 994-4880
- 6-7 NILE Bull Riders Invitational—Billings 256-2495
- 6-7 Western Days and Bulls-R-Us—Sidney 482-1916
- 7 18th Annual Spring Art & Craft Show—Helena 449-4790
- 7 Annual Furniture Race—Whitefish 862-2900
- 7 Double Pole, Pad and Pedal—Bozeman 586-1518
- 7 Mannequin Jumping—Neihart 236-5522
- 7 Run for the Trees—Missoula 721-7275
- 7-8 Artists and Craftsmen of the Flathead Spring Show—Kalispell 881-4288
- 14-21 International Wildlife Film Festival—Missoula 728-9380
- 20-22 Home & Garden Show & Sale, Great Falls Homebuilders Association—21st Year—Great Falls 452-4663
- 20-22 Rendezvous...Eureka!—Eureka 889-4636
- 21 7th Annual Children's Activity Fair—Great Falls 761-6010
- 21 11th Annual Railroad Swap Meet—Livingston 222-2300
- 21-22 Spring Fling Home Garden Expo—Glendive 365-5601
- 22 21st Annual Helena Railroad Fair—Helena 443-0315 or 443-1578
- 27-28 7th Annual StoryTelling Roundup—Cut Bank 873-2039 or 873-2295
- 27-28 Madison River Musical Festival—Ennis 682-4053
- 27-29 Flat Iron Quilt Show—Thompson Falls 827-3571
- 28 Summit Classic Run—Kalispell 751-4101
- 28-29 Helena Mineral Society's 53rd Annual Gem & Mineral Show—Helena 442-1226 or 442-5172
- 29 2001 Ice Breaker Road Race—Great Falls 771-1265
- 29 The Kite Festival & Spring Fling Fun Runs—Helena 443-4608

## MAY

- 4 Artwalk Downtown—Billings 252-0122
- 4-6 Essexpress Railfan Weekend—Essex 888-5700
- 5 Park to Paradise Race—Gardiner 848-7971
- 11-13 Buffalo Feast and Pow Wow—St. Ignatius 745-2951 or 745-0500
- 12 20th Annual Montana Women's Run—Billings 656-6973

- 12 International Migratory Bird Day—Moiese 644-2211 ext. 207
- 12 Mullan Day—Superior 822-4891
- 12 Spring Cycle Tour/Lakeside Ride—West Yellowstone 646-7701
- 12-13 STOKR—Scenic Tour of the Kootenai River—Libby 293-2441
- 14-19 MSU-Billings Wine Festival—Billings 657-2244
- 14-21 Historic Preservation Week—Kalispell 756-8381
- 15 Montana Peace Officers Memorial Day—Deer Lodge 846-3777
- 16-18 Special Olympics Summer Games—Billings 268-6759
- 18 7th Annual Big Timber Bull-a-Rama—Big Timber 932-6228 or 932-6697
- 18-20 May Fair Fling—Missoula 721-3247
- 18-20 Miles City Bucking Horse Sale—Miles City 232-7700 or 232-6585
- 18-20 Stumptown Days—Whitefish 862-3501
- 19 Community Watershed Festival—Bozeman 582-0526
- 19 Lewis & Clark Days—Lewistown 538-5436
- 19 Montana Race for the Cure—Helena 227-7286
- 19-20 Billings Gem & Mineral Annual Show—Billings 656-5707 or 252-6502
- 19-20 Whoop-Up Days—Conrad 278-3612 or 278-7791
- 23 National Bison Range Birthday Celebration—Moiese 644-2211 ext. 207
- 26 Horseback Poker Run—Virginia City 843-5484
- 26 Red Water Run—Glendive 365-5601
- 26-28 Black Powder Shoot—Haure 265-2483
- 27-28 Loon & Fish Festival—Seeley Lake 677-2517
- 28 Crazy Mountain Museum Festival—Big Timber 932-4284

For a complete list of events, see us at [visitmt.com](http://visitmt.com)

## FROM MONTANA

The diversity of events, places and people in Montana is almost as wide as the state itself. We hope to give you a taste of that diversity with this quarterly newsletter. In addition, my office offers these services to editors, writers and producers.

### Visual Materials

Color slides, 8"x10" B/W photos and stock video footage are available for editorial use.

### Writer/Photographer Referrals

We can put you in contact with many of Montana's most talented and experienced freelance writers and photographers.

### Editorial Copy/Calendar of Events

We can provide background information or editorial copy for many subjects. We also maintain a calendar of events for the entire state.

### Individual Attention

If you need the latest vacation guide and road map of Montana, a liaison with other government agencies or detailed information to fit a specific story angle, we're here to assist you.

Mary Boyle, Publicity Coordinator